

In the claims:

For the convenience of the Examiner, all claims being examined, whether or not amended, are presented below.

1-62. **(Cancelled)**

63. **(Previously presented)** A preparation, comprising a polypeptide comprising a hedgehog polypeptide sequence including at least 50 amino acid residues of an N-terminal half of a *hedgehog* protein, which polypeptide is formulated for topical application, and which polypeptide is formulated on a sponge, bandage, dressing, or film.

64. **(Cancelled)**

65. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 150 amino acids residues of an N-terminal half of the *hedgehog* protein.

66. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least 100 amino acids of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

67. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the polypeptide includes at least a portion of a hedgehog protein corresponding to a 19kd fragment of an extracellular domain of the hedgehog protein.

68. **(Original)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the hedgehog protein is encoded by a gene of a vertebrate organism.

69. **(Cancelled)**

70. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the hedgehog protein is modified with one or more lipophilic moieties.

71. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 63, wherein the hedgehog polypeptide is modified with one or more sterol moieties.

72. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 71, wherein the sterol moiety is cholesterol.

73. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 70, wherein the one or more lipophilic moieties are one or more fatty acid moieties.

74. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 73, wherein each fatty acid moiety is independently selected from myristoyl, palmitoyl, stearoyl, or arachidoyl.

75. **(Previously presented)** The preparation of claim 70, wherein the hedgehog polypeptide is modified with one or more aromatic hydrocarbons.